

**Jeopardy Assessment**  
for the Proposed Incidental Taking Authorization  
of the yellow gentian (*gentiana alba*)

Ledge Road, Town of Stockbridge  
Calumet County, Wisconsin

**Background**

The state-threatened yellow gentian is a member of the genus *Gentiana*. The common name of the species comes from its yellowish colored flowers. *Gentiana alba* grows in oak woodlands, oak openings, and mesic prairies. The plants are often associated with calcareous soils. Many of the known populations have been found in roadside ditches where they are vulnerable to road maintenance and expansion projects.

Yellow gentian is found primarily south of the Tension Zone, mostly in the southern two tiers of counties, north along the Lake Michigan counties into the Door Peninsula, and in several counties in west-central Wisconsin. There are 107 known populations of yellow gentian in the Natural Heritage database. Of these, 25 are either considered to be historical, extirpated, or additional surveys failed to relocate the population. An additional 27 populations have a low probability of long-term survival due to a number of factors such as small numbers of plants, immediate threats, and competition from other plant species. Only 14 populations have been ranked as fair to good population viability. The remnant population along this road project is very small, and the long-term viability is poor.

In summary, while there are over 100 records for yellow gentian in the Natural Heritage database, many of those populations were observed before 1970, have been extirpated, or have poor long-term viability. This population has poor long-term viability.

**Jeopardy Assessment**

This population is very small, vulnerable, and has poor long-term viability. The road project would result in the loss of four to six individual yellow gentian plants. However, over 40 plants have been successfully translocated to new locations on county and state-owned properties. The elimination of this small population due to road construction will not jeopardize the continued existence of this species in Wisconsin.

**Conservation Measures**

The following conservation measures will be adhered to for the purpose of minimizing any adverse effect on the state endangered snow trillium.

1. The remaining plants shall be translocated out of the construction zone prior to any additional construction activity. The plants will be located at sites chosen at the discretion of the Department.
2. Future maintenance activities associated with the road should incorporate the protection and conservation of the yellow gentian. If plants are located within any area that will be impacted by right of way maintenance, then all mowing shall be limited to October through June and mowed only one time per year.